

1 **Amendments to the Claims:**

2 Claim 1 (currently amended): A single-use disposable lancet device comprising:
3 a body having an upper portion and a lower portion,
4 a trigger carried by said upper portion of said body, said trigger movable between
5 a first raised position wherein the device is cocked and a second depressed position wherein
6 the device is fired,
7 a needle assembly movable between a cocked position and a striking position,
8 a drive spring for moving said needle assembly from its cocked position to its
9 striking position,
10 trigger bar means having a first position wherein said trigger bar means holds
11 said needle assembly in its cocked position and having a second position wherein said needle
12 assembly is moved to its striking position by said drive spring, wherein said trigger bar means
13 is integrally molded as a part of said lower body portion.
14 blade means carried by said trigger, and as said trigger moves from its first
15 position to its second position, said blade means deforms a portion of said trigger bar means
16 whereby said deformed trigger bar means releases said needle assembly from its cocked
17 position and said deformed trigger bar means is thereafter not capable of holding said needle
18 assembly in its cocked position, thereby limiting the device to a single use.

19 Claim 2 (canceled)

20 Claim 3 (currently amended): The device of claim 2 1 wherein said trigger bar means
21 includes a transverse crossbar, said transverse crossbar having first and second ends, said
22 first and second ends being severed by said blade means when said trigger is moved to said
23 second position.

24 Claim 4 (original): The device of claim 3 wherein said blade means comprises first and
25 second guillotine type blades which sever said first and second ends of said transverse
26 crossbar when the device is fired.

1 Claim 5 (canceled)

2 Claim 6 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein said drive spring comprises a free
3 floating spring and further comprising bounceback spring means integrally formed with said
4 needle assembly.

5 Claim 7 (currently amended): The device of claim 6 wherein said bounceback spring
6 means comprises a pair of spring arms.

7 Claim 8 (original): The device of claim 7 wherein each of said spring arms is generally
8 V-shaped.

9 Claim 9 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein said trigger bar means is
10 compressible by said blade means, and said trigger bar means has a first extended position
11 in which the device is cocked and a second compressed position in which the device is fired.

12 Claim 10 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein said trigger comprises:

13 a one-way trigger button molded into said upper portion of said body, said trigger
14 button having a first raised and cocked position and a second depressed and firing position,
15 said trigger button having distal and proximal ends pivotally connected to said body, said
16 trigger button having a running length that exceeds the distance between said proximal and
17 distal ends, so that said trigger button is stable only in its first and second positions and is
18 unstable at any intermediate position.

19 Claim 11 (currently amended): A single-use disposable lancet device comprising:

20 a body having an upper portion and a lower portion,

21 a trigger carried by said upper portion of said body, said trigger movable between
22 a first raised position in which the device is cocked and a second depressed position in which
23 the device is fired,

24 a needle assembly movable between a cocked position and a striking position,

25 a drive spring for moving said needle assembly from its cocked position to its
26 striking position,

1 trigger bar means having a first position wherein said trigger bar means holds
2 said needle assembly in its cocked position and having a second position wherein said needle
3 assembly is movable to its striking position by said drive spring, wherein said trigger bar
4 means is integrally molded as a part of said lower body portion.

5 blade means carried by said trigger, and as said trigger moves from its first
6 position to its second position, said blade means severs a portion of said trigger bar means
7 causing said partially severed trigger bar means to release said needle assembly from its
8 cocked position and thereafter preventing said partially severed trigger bar means from holding
9 said needle assembly in its cocked position, thereby limiting the device to a single use.

10 Claim 12 (canceled)

11 Claim 13 (currently amended): The device of claim 42 11 wherein said trigger bar
12 means includes a transverse crossbar, said transverse crossbar having first and second ends,
13 said first and second ends being severed by said blade means when said trigger is moved to
14 said second position.

15 Claim 14 (original): The device of claim 13 wherein said blade means comprises first
16 and second guillotine type blades which sever said first and second ends of said transverse
17 crossbar when the device is fired.

18 Claim 15 (original): The device of claim 14 wherein said trigger bar means includes a
19 support stem to prevent said transverse crossbar from falling out of said body after said first
20 and second ends are severed.

21 Claim 16 (canceled)

22 Claim 17 (original): The device of claim 11 wherein said drive spring comprises a free
23 floating spring and further comprising bounceback spring means integrally formed with said
24 needle assembly.

25 Claim 18 (original): The device of claim 17 wherein said bounceback spring comprises
26 a pair of generally V-shaped spring arms.

1 Claim 19 (original): The device of claim 11 wherein said trigger comprises:

2 a one-way trigger button molded into said upper portion of said body, said trigger
3 button having a first retracted and cocked position and a second depressed and firing position,
4 said trigger button having distal and proximal ends pivotally connected to said upper portion
5 of said body, said trigger button having a running length that exceeds the distance between
6 said proximal and distal ends, so that said trigger button is stable only in its first and second
7 positions and is unstable at any intermediate position.

8 Claim 20 (original): A single-use disposable lancet device comprising:

9 a body having an upper portion and a lower portion,

10 a trigger carried by said upper portion of said body, said trigger movable between
11 a first raised position in which the device is cocked and a second depressed position in which
12 the device is fired,

13 a needle assembly movable between a cocked position and a striking position,

14 a free-floating drive spring for moving said needle assembly from its cocked
15 position to its striking position,

16 a bounceback spring means integrally formed with said needle assembly,

17 trigger bar means having a first position wherein said trigger bar means holds
18 said needle assembly in its cocked position and having a second position wherein said needle
19 assembly is moved to its striking position by said drive spring,

20 blade means carried by said trigger, and as said trigger moves from its first
21 position to its second position, said blade means severs a portion of said trigger bar means
22 whereby said partially severed trigger bar means releases said needle assembly from its
23 cocked position and said partially severed trigger bar means is thereafter not capable of
24 holding said needle assembly in its cocked position, thereby limiting the device to a single use.

25 Claim 21 (canceled)

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1 Claim 22 (original): The device of claim 20 wherein said trigger bar means includes a
2 support stem and a transverse crossbar, said transverse crossbar having first and second
3 ends, said first and second ends being severed by said blade means when said trigger is
4 moved to said second position.

5 Claim 23 (original): The device of claim 22 wherein said blade means comprises first
6 and second guillotine-type blades which sever said first and second ends of said transverse
7 crossbar when the device is fired.

8 Claim 24 (original): The device of claim 20 wherein said trigger comprises:
9 a one-way trigger button molded into said upper portion of said body, said trigger
10 button having a first retracted and cocked position and a second depressed and firing position,
11 said trigger button having distal and proximal ends pivotally connected to said upper portion
12 of said body, said trigger button having a running length that exceeds the distance between
13 said proximal and distal ends, so that said trigger button is stable only in its first and second
14 positions and is unstable at any intermediate position.

15 Claim 25 (currently amended): A single-use disposable lancet device comprising:
16 a body having an upper portion and a lower portion,
17 a trigger carried by said upper portion of said body, said trigger movable between
18 a first raised position in which the device is cocked and a second depressed position in which
19 the device is fired,
20 a needle assembly movable between a cocked position and a striking position,
21 a drive spring for moving said needle assembly from its cocked position to its
22 striking position,
23 trigger bar means having a first position wherein said trigger bar means holds
24 said needle assembly in its cocked position and having a second position wherein said needle
25 assembly is moved to its striking position by said drive spring, wherein said trigger bar means
26 is integrally molded as part of said lower body portion.

1 blade means carried by said trigger, and as said trigger moves from its first
2 position to its second position, said blade means irreparably breaks a portion of said trigger
3 bar means whereby said broken trigger bar means releases said needle assembly from its
4 cocked position and said broken trigger bar means is thereafter not capable of holding said
5 needle assembly in its cocked position, thereby limiting the device to a single use.

6 Claim 26 (canceled)

7 Claim 27 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising a
8 depressible trigger button, wherein the depressible trigger button carries two vertical blades
9 which sever a portion of said trigger bar means when the trigger button is depressed.

10 Claim 28 (canceled)

11 Claim 29 (original): The apparatus of claim 25 in which a support stem is molded onto
12 the trigger bar and is bendable downward when the device is fired, thereby retaining the trigger
13 bar within the body of the device.

14 Claims 30-33 (canceled)

15 Claim 34 (currently amended): In a lancet device for drawing a capillary blood sample,
16 wherein a needle assembly is carried within a body, and said needle assembly is movable
17 between a cocked position, a striking position and an at rest position, the improvement
18 comprising:

19 a free floating mainspring means for driving said needle assembly from its
20 cocked position to its striking position, and

21 bounceback spring means carried by said needle assembly for returning said
22 needle assembly from said striking position to said at rest position, said bounceback spring
23 means being integrally formed with said needle assembly, wherein said bounceback spring
24 means comprises a pair of spring arms.

25 Claim 35 (canceled)

1 Claim 36 (currently amended): The device of claim 35 34 wherein each of said spring
2 arms is generally V-shaped.

3 Claims 37-38 (canceled)

4 Claim 39 (original): The method of automatically assembling a lancet device in a
5 cocked position, wherein the components of said lancet device include an upper body portion
6 having proximal and distal ends, a lower body portion having proximal and distal ends, a
7 mainspring and a needle assembly having a removable tailpiece, and wherein an opening is
8 formed in said proximal ends of one or both of said body portions of said device for temporarily
9 receiving said tailpiece, comprising the steps:

10 supporting said lower body portion,

11 automatically loading said mainspring onto said tailpiece,

12 automatically compressing said mainspring on said tailpiece,

13 automatically and temporarily holding said compressed mainspring on said
14 tailpiece,

15 automatically loading said needle assembly with said compressed mainspring
16 into said lower body portion,

17 automatically closing the device by attaching said upper body portion to said
18 lower body portion, and

19 severing said tailpiece from said needle assembly, leaving said cocked
20 mainspring in position ready to cause said needle assembly to fire.

21 Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 39 wherein said mainspring is compressed
22 and held on said tailpiece by an automatic compression tool, and wherein said automatic
23 compression tool is withdrawn through said opening after the device is closed.

24 Claim 41 (original): The method of assembling a lancet device in a cocked position,
25 wherein the components of said lancet device include an upper body portion having proximal
26 and distal ends, a lower body portion having proximal and distal ends, a mainspring and a

1 needle assembly having a removable tailpiece, and wherein an opening is formed in said
2 proximal ends of one or both of said body portions of said device for temporarily receiving said
3 tailpiece, comprising the steps:

4 supporting said lower body portion,
5 loading said mainspring onto said tailpiece,
6 compressing said mainspring on said tailpiece,
7 temporarily holding said compressed mainspring on said tailpiece,
8 loading said needle assembly with said compressed mainspring into said lower
9 body portion,
10 closing the device by attaching said upper body portion to said lower body
11 portion, and
12 severing said tailpiece from said needle assembly, leaving said cocked
13 mainspring in position ready to cause said needle assembly to fire.

14 Claim 42 (original): The method of claim 41 wherein said mainspring is compressed
15 and held on said tailpiece by a compression tool, and wherein said compression tool is
16 withdrawn through said opening after the device is closed.

17 Claim 43 (original): In a single-use disposable lancet device having a body with upper
18 and lower portions, a needle assembly movable between a cocked position and a striking
19 position, and a drive spring for advancing said needle assembly, the improvement comprising:
20 a one-way trigger button molded into said upper portion of said body, said trigger
21 button having a first retracted and cocked position and a second depressed and firing position,
22 said trigger button having distal and proximal ends pivotally connected to said body, said
23 trigger button having a running length that exceeds the distance between said proximal and
24 distal ends, so that said trigger button is stable only in its first and second positions and is
25 unstable at any intermediate position.

1 Claim 44 (original): The device of claim 43 wherein said trigger button comprises three
2 segments, a first segment forming said distal end of said trigger button which is concave and
3 adapted to comfortably receive a user's fingertip, a second segment forming said proximal end
4 of said trigger button, and a third segment which is positioned between said first and second
5 segments.

6 Claim 45 (original): The device of claim 44 wherein said third segment is inclined
7 between said first and second segments.

8 Claim 46 (original): The device of claim 45 wherein said three segments create an
9 over-the-center motion of said trigger, wherein said trigger is unstable at intermediate positions
10 between said cocked and firing positions.

11 Claim 47 (original): The device of claim 46, wherein said trigger button remains in its
12 depressed firing position after the device is fired.